

January 16, 2024

State of Alaska,
Juneau, AK

To: Honored Committee Members
House Labor and Commerce Committee

HB159 Professional Registration for Interior Designers

Dear Alaska Legislators:

As leaders of one of Alaska's oldest architectural firms, we are writing to express our support of HB159 and its companion bill SB73. This bill will expand professional design in Alaska by allowing NCIDQ certified interior designers to become registered, allowing them to take responsible charge for commercial interior renovations and similar projects.

We feel strongly that NCIDQ certified interior designers are qualified to perform this type of work. In fact, our own new office in Anchorage was designed and overseen by an NCIDQ certified interior designer. She developed the design, identified code and life safety issues, produced the plans and specs, coordinated with mechanical, electrical and structural engineers, and worked with Municipal plan reviewers to obtain a building permit. While this same work could have been completed by an architect, it is telling that a firm of mostly architects chose an interior designer to oversee the type of project that this bill contemplates.

This bill will remove unnecessary barriers and will have many positive benefits to the State of Alaska:

- It will help Alaska attract and retain design professionals, making our State one of the most attractive places in the nation to be an interior designer.
- It will increase consumer choice for design of interior construction projects.
- It will remove existing barriers that favor architects on projects for which NCIDQ certified interior designers are equally qualified to protect life, safety and welfare.

We urge the Alaska Legislature to pass HB159 and SB73.

With Kind Regards,



Brian Meissner, AIA

Jason Swift, AIA

Justin Scanio, AIA

ECI Alaska